

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورنن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 2, Number 366

AMMAN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1977 — MOHARRAM 30, 1397

Price: 50 fils

Qadhafi, Tito issue communique

TRIPOLI, Jan. 21 (R). — Libya and Yugoslavia said last night that recent events in Lebanon were part of an imperialist plot aimed at wrecking Arab unity and undermining the Palestinian revolution. In a communique issued after a three-day official visit to Libya by Yugoslav President Tito, they also condemned the "racist regimes" in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. The communique, published here by Libya's official Arab Revolution News Agency (ARNA), added that the two countries emphasised the need for a new international economic and monetary system ending exploitation.

5 blasts shake Moscow

MOSCOW, Jan. 21 (AFP). — Five explosions shook Moscow tonight over a period of just over 40 minutes. There was no immediate explanation of the cause of the blasts from official or other sources. The first blast occurred at 9 p.m. local, and was followed 30 seconds later by another explosion. A third bang occurred at 9:25, and was followed by two others. Soviet sources said that the first two explosions were like those made by supersonic planes. An Interior Ministry official said he had received no information about the explosions, which were heard clearly inside the city.

Carter pardons draft dodgers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (AFP). — President Jimmy Carter today granted an amnesty for all those who evaded the draft during the Vietnam war. His decision -- the first since the coming president yesterday -- affects many young American men now living in Canada and Western Europe. Under the amnesty, those American draft evaders who have adopted foreign nationality can apply for a renewal of American nationality, under the same conditions as a foreigner wishing to become American.

The amnesty does not apply to persons who committed acts of violence to escape the draft, nor to those who facilitated or took part in draft evasion. Nor does the amnesty apply to deserters. Mr. Carter has asked the Justice Department to undertake a case-by-case study of desertion, to see if the deserters' situation should be amended.

The Soviet Union today led a divisive though sometimes cautious world reaction to President Carter's inauguration. Mr. Georgy Arbatov, Moscow's leading expert on the United States, welcomes the new president's edge to move towards reducing nuclear arms race and said it would help well for Soviet-American relations.

Mr. Arbatov, head of the United States and Canada Institute in Moscow, told Tass news agency: "Attention is caught by the section in Jimmy Carter's speech where he pledged perseverance and wisdom in efforts to limit the world's armaments and his intention to move this year a step towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons."

Israeli newspapers forecast a continuation of American friendship towards the country. The Jerusalem Post commented editorially: "He is clearly a man of high principle and noble aims, but also one of caution and prudence... but at the moment we have barely an inkling as to how he proposes to attain his aims of helping America just and strong."

making it count in the global



FIRST OFFICIAL ACT -- President Jimmy Carter signs the papers submitting the names of his cabinet nominees to Congress in Washington Thursday as his first official act after being sworn in as the 39th chief executive of the United States. (AP wirephoto).

Smith: Britain has moved even further away from Kissinger's package

SALISBURY, Jan. 21 (AFP). — Britain has moved still further away in its latest Rhodesian settlement proposals from the Kissinger package agreed last year, Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith said today after talks with British negotiator Ivor Richard.

Mr. Richard, chairman of the Geneva conference on Rhodesia, arrived here yesterday and met Mr. Smith for more than two hours this morning.

"But there is no question of a breakdown in the talks," Mr. Smith said after today's meeting, adding that the British proposals were "quite complicated" and that the talks had been frank.

Mr. Richard would not comment or answer questions on the proposals which he put to South African Prime Minister John Vorster in Cape Town earlier in the week.

He announced however that more talks would take place between himself and Mr. Smith on Monday morning, and described the atmosphere today as "good and friendly" although no decisions had been made.

Lebanese rightist summit opens in Brummana

BEIRUT, Jan. 21 (R). — Former President Camille Chamoun today opened a meeting of Lebanon's traditional rightist leaders at a monastery in the Brummana area, east of Beirut, to discuss the future of Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Phalangist leader Pierre Gemayel, former President Suleiman Franjeh and Father Sharbhel Qassiss, head of the Lebanese Maronite monastic order.

The meeting, described as a conclave, will last until Sunday night.

Mr. Gemayel told reporters before the conference that the recommendations adopted by the meeting would be submitted to other Lebanese leaders.

He said the meeting would discuss "the future of the Lebanon we want."

Following "rice riots" All is quiet on the Egyptian front

CAIRO, Jan. 21 (AFP). — The situation in Cairo today seemed to have returned to normal after this week's rice riots, with no incidents reported at the Friday mosque services attended by thousands in various parts of the capital.

Observers said the population seemed relieved by President Anwar Sadat's decision to drop planned increases in the prices of basic foodstuffs. The announcement triggered the violent demonstrations.

Today shopkeepers whose storefronts were damaged in the wave of protest were busy doing repair work, and the army tanks that took up position yesterday outside Cairo central station moved off this morning.

Soldiers however remained, and there were still barricades in some parts of the city.

President Sadat has meanwhile received messages of support from Arab leaders.

In a message to the Egyptian president, King Khaled of Saudi Arabia pledged his country's full backing to Egypt.

Cairo Radio quoted the monarch as telling President Sadat, "rest assured, dear brother, that Saudi Arabia, people and government, with all its resources will stand at your side."

Saudi Arabia has been Egypt's main financial backer since the 1973 war with Israel.

Observers noted that further Saudi aid at this point could offer a way for the government to satisfy its international creditors without resorting to severe cutbacks in government subsidies.

President Hafez Assad of Syria also telephoned Mr. Sadat to inquire about the situation in Egypt, the radio said.

The curfew meanwhile was eased today. It was scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. and end tomorrow at 4 a.m. The curfew, which has been in force since Wednesday, may be lifted before next Monday.

But last night curfew regulations were strictly enforced, and according to press reports 1,000 persons without safe-conduct passes were arrested.

In the suburban Cairo district of Duqqi, automatic weapon fire could be heard last night, and the firing was presumably to get people to respect the curfew.

Alexandria, Egypt's second city, has also been calm since last night.

Tomorrow President Sadat is to discuss the bloody demonstrations with other state leaders. It is understood that he may make a broadcast to the nation after the meeting.

The semi-official daily Al-Ahram has blamed the rioting on Communists. It reported this morning that a secret Communist group, "the Egyptian Workers Communist Party", instigated the riots.

The newspaper said the group was financed by certain Arab extremist parties and acted in co-operation with them.

Palestinian Central Council to discuss ties with Jordan at Damascus meet today

DAMASCUS, Jan. 21 (R). — Palestinian leaders meet here tomorrow to discuss their hopes for a new and clearer relationship with Jordan and to try again to agree on the enlargement of their parliament-in-exile.

Hani Al Hassan, political adviser to PLO Executive Council Chairman Yasser Arafat, predicted today that a recent Palestinian meeting with His Majesty King Hussein would lead to a well-defined relationship between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mr. Al Hassan also told reporters that he expected tomorrow's meeting of the 40-member Palestinian Central Council to decide to enlarge the Palestinian National Council to 250 or 300 members.

The parliament in exile has previously had 180 members.

The meeting of the Central Council -- the link between the PLO leadership and the Palestinian parliament-in-exile -- will be chaired by Khaled Al Fahoum, speaker of the National Council, who met King Hussein in Amman this week. Mr. Al Hassan also attended the meeting.

The Central Council met on Dec. 12 and again on Jan. 11, but failed to agree on the new membership of the National Council and on a date for its meeting.

Informed Palestinian sources say however that the National Council now is expected to meet in Cairo in late February, and to discuss the Palestinian attitude towards proposals for a resumed Middle East peace conference in Geneva.

Mr. Al Hassan was today quoted by the Amman daily Al-Dustour as saying the PLO should have an independent place at any resumed Geneva conference. But the top Arab priority was preparing for an expected clash with Israel, he added.

Mr. Al Hassan told the newspaper: "It (the PLO) should have an independent representation, but at the same time it must work within the framework of a common Arab plan."

The PLO was not invited when the Geneva conference met briefly in December 1973, with the United States and the Soviet Union as co-chairmen. President Sadat of Egypt and King Hussein, who both sent representation to the conference, called for its resumption in a joint statement last weekend.

Mr. Hassan said it was premature to discuss the Geneva talks now. He said the United States did not favour the Geneva meeting as a road to peace but still preferred a step-by-step policy.

"We should be occupied with preparing ourselves for an expected confrontation with Israel, and when such preparations are complete we can begin thinking of solutions from a position of strength," he was quoted as saying.

The National Council will also hear a report on the effects of the Lebanese civil war on the Palestinian movement and its relations with Arab governments, the sources said.

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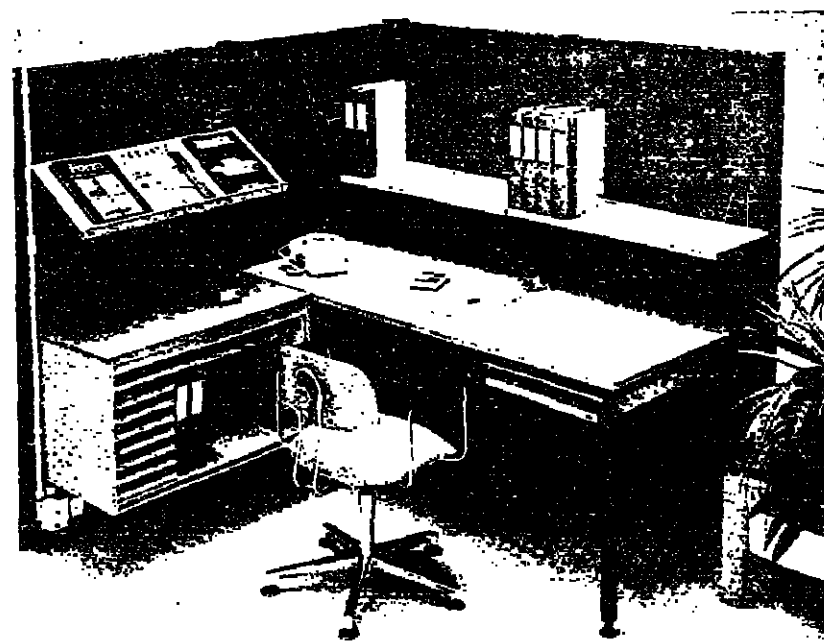


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New course needed

The bloody events that have rocked Egypt over the past several days may have come as a surprise to many, but they should not have. The real surprise is that such displays of discontent did not erupt earlier, because they are symptomatic of the economic malaise in Egypt that is inevitably, and everywhere on earth, translated into street-level anger and action. The Egyptians may consider themselves fortunate that the outburst was contained as quickly as it was, even though nearly 50 people died and hundreds were injured.

It is no accident that the end of the violence in the streets was followed immediately by a call for help from the parliamentary Budget and Planning Committee, a call asking any and all who can do so to help Egypt put its economic mess in order. The violence of the past week must force the Egyptians to admit courageously that their open-door economic policy has been a stark failure, but it must also prod them to make the changes in this policy that will attract the foreign investment capital and budgetary aid that is so urgently required.

The Egyptian economy has been on a disaster course. Every year it produces less agricultural goods and thereby has to import more than the year before; it borrows more every year than it can repay, and takes credits from abroad as well as resorts to massive internal deficit financing it continues to dump hundreds of thousands of its educated citizens into a state bureaucracy that becomes bigger, more costly and less effective every year; inflationary pressures persist and are aggravated by the failure of the open-door policy to attract any substantial international investments in Egypt's industrial sector. Rapid industrialisation, combined with good agricultural performances, is the heart of Egypt's economic remedial efforts; but the foreign money needed for industrialisation has not been coming into the country, for reasons (exchange rate policies, bureaucratic horror stories) that can be wiped away with a stroke of the legislative pen, a stroke that one hopes will follow shortly.

The result of economic chaos piled upon a growing population is invariably trouble in the streets, and it came this week in Egypt. The lesson should shock the Egyptians to go about putting their economic house in order in a more realistic and necessarily more demanding manner, but it should also shock the wealthy Arab states into the realisation that Egypt really needs all the short-term financial help it asks for. The key is to give Egypt the aid it requires, both for budgetary expenses and for vital capital investments. Egypt should be put in the same position that Britain has been put in by the IMF. It should be given the cash it needs, but it should also be told in blunt language where this money must and must not go.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL DUSTOUR, under the heading "All Arabs are one confrontation bloc", Friday said that His Majesty King Hussein has warned against overoptimism as regards the Geneva Middle East peace conference, as it will not be the end of trouble or the final conclusion. What is important is that the Arabs should attain a high degree of strength, consolidation and agreement, and the confrontation states should receive the proper support that enables them to face the threat.

Al Dustour continues: "The King's warning did not come out of pessimism or judgement of the conference. It was a frank caution to the Arabs to prepare themselves for all eventualities in case the Geneva conference has no chance of meeting, or Israel uses it as a platform for manoeuvring tactics, prevarication or dictating conditions; or if it finally fails to coerce Israel to abandon its aggressive option of keeping the usurped Arab territories under occupation."

Hence, Geneva is nothing more than an attempt on the road of peace. This attempt should on no account be the last card in the hands of the Arabs, who should be able to opt and act in accordance with a coordinated and thoroughly-studied plan.

Urging an increase in support for the confrontation states from the supporting ones proportionate to the magnitude of danger, the paper suggests that the traditional procedure of making one Arab group confrontation states and another supporting ones should be rectified so that all Arabs can work together as one formidable

confrontation bloc, possessing the mentality and potential of confrontation.

AL RA'I columnist Abdul Rahim Omar Friday speculated on new U.S. President Jimmy Carter's chances of success during his four-year term of office which began Thursday.

He says that according to people in the know, the coloured Americans were the only political group which tipped the balance in favour of the new president.

Mr. Omar continues to say that in spite of the appointment of one of this group as U.S. representative to the United Nations, and the long, difficult path which the new president is expected to take to combat racial discrimination in America, the longest path is the one which President Carter is expected to take to combat racial discrimination in Africa and to deal with African issues that frequently arise between Africa and its former colonialists, who are all America's traditional allies.

There is also the long path which the new president ought to take against Zionism -- a racist movement which bred Israel.

The columnist goes on to say: "On the international level we can see the allied countries economic crisis -- in Britain, Italy, France and Japan -- the need to retain the thin balancing thread which can preserve international capitalism, and defence of the American dollar against depressions sustained in 1972 vis-a-vis the Japanese yen, the German mark and the Swiss franc.

Mr. Omar ends up with these



A senator with a camera

Sen. H. Baker displays his photographs

AMMAN, (JT). — Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee, whose photographs go on display on Jan. 23 at the Intercontinental Hotel, is well known in the United States as the probing Senator during the Watergate hearings. In Jordan during his two recent visits for meetings with His Majesty King Hussein and top Jordanian officials, he was known as "that Senator with the camera," joining journalists for photo opportunities during official functions and stopping his car when he saw something of interest.

The newly-elected Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate was only 12 years old when he developed his first photograph. As a child, he learned to love the land and the natural beauty around him. Rather than disturb the unadorned elegance of nature, he preferred to record it on film and share it with others. In time, he would be able to see the delicate charm of a single bloom without losing his perspective of an entire flower garden.

Both photographers and politicians have to make accurate judgements in order to achieve desired results. Sensitivity is a key element in both professions. Reflecting on the type of photography he does, Senator Baker remarked, "It's best not to see, but

to sense what you want to get in a photograph." He does just that and transmits his personal feeling of warmth to others who see the excellence of his work.

Thirty colored photos of Senator Baker's work are now in Amman and will be displayed for public viewing from Sunday,

Jan. 23 until Monday, Jan. 24, at the Pasha Room of the Intercontinental Hotel under the sponsorship of Mr. Ma'n Abu Nuwar, the Mayor of Amman, who is also an amateur photographer who finds it useful to carry his camera with him when he travels around the city he is responsible for.



United States Senator Howard Baker, the well-known Senator from Tennessee, speaks with John Foster, Director of the American Center, about plans for an exhibition of his photographs in Amman. The exhibition, sponsored by the Lord Mayor of Amman, is scheduled to open at the Pasha Room of the Inter-Continental Hotel on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. It will be open to the public through Jan. 24.

Iskandar leaves for Damascus

AMMAN (JNA). — The Syrian Minister of Information, Mr. Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, and the accompanying delegation left for Damascus Friday morning.

Mr. Iskandar concluded the three-day meetings of the joint, Jordanian-Syrian committee in the

field of public information after which a joint communiqué was issued bolstering bilateral relations and joint efforts in the field of information.

Mr. Iskandar was seen off at the unified border post of Ramtha by the Minister of Information, Mr. Adnan Abu Odeh, and a number of the officials in the Ministry of Information.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.S. dollar	331.0	335.0
U.K. sterling	574.0	580.0
German mark	138.5	138.9
French franc	67.1	67.4
Swiss franc	133.3	133.7
Italian lira		
(for every 100)	37.9	38.1
Syrian pound	82.6	82.9
Lebanese pound	113.9	114.5
Saudi riyal	94.3	94.8
Iraqi dinar	940.0	945.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1150.0	1157.0
UAE dirham	83.0	83.5
Libyan dinar	740.0	750.0
Egyptian pound	470.0	480.0

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Jordan, Austria sign cooperation accord

VIENNA (JNA). — An economic, industrial and technical cooperation agreement was signed between Jordan and Austria here at the Austrian Ministry of Industry and Trade Friday morning.

Under the agreement, the two parties will work to develop and encourage bilateral, economic, scientific, industrial and cultural cooperation and increase the exchange of technical expertise. Agreement was also reached to provide firms in the private and public sectors of the two countries with the necessary incentives to establish joint industrial and social ventures and expand the programme for the exchange of experts.

It also states that the two governments should create suitable conditions to encourage the expansion of trade exchange and to create a joint committee to supervise the implementation of the agreement.

The accord completes cooperation steps between the two countries.

tries started during the reign of His Majesty King Hussein last year.

The agreement was signed by Jordan, by the Jordanian Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Ibrahim Ezzedine, and for Austria, by the Austrian Minister of Trade, Dr. Josef Staribach.



Mr. Ibrahim Ezzedine, Jordanian Minister of Industry and Trade, signs the agreement.

Jordanian, Syrian press union discuss bilateral cooperation

AMMAN (JNA). — Officials from the Jordanian Press Association and their opposite numbers from the Syrian Press Union Thursday evening held a meeting here to discuss measures to further cooperation and integration between the two press bodies.

The meeting was held in the context of bolstering bilateral information cooperation.

The meeting, held at the Jordanian Press Association headquarters, discussed a joint agenda on

exchange of experience, press reviews and in addition to arranging for reciprocal visits by journalists at the various fields of press in the two countries.

The two sides decided to form a joint committee to supervise implementation of coordinated steps between the two press unions.

National Notes

● AMMAN. — The Governor of Amman Governorate, Mr. Ali Al-Bashir, Thursday evening presided over a meeting of the governorate's local administration officials and discussed with them proposed administrative changes to take place in some localities.

● AMMAN. — A Jordanian, Mr. Abdul Mahdi Massa'deh, won the 1976/77 prize of the Cairo based Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences with the research paper he prepared on the principles of local government and its application in Jordan. Mr. Mahdi is an employee in the Yarmouk University.

● AMMAN. — The Parliamentary delegation from the Yemen Arab Republic left here for home Friday after attending the meetings headed by the resident of the Arab Parliamentary Union d'affaires in the city until the ambassador was nominated.

AUSTRALIA OPEN EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS

CANBERRA, Jan. 21 (R). — Australia will open an embassy in Damascus next month, Minister Andrews Peacock said today. Mr. Peacock, currently in the capital for official talks, said the embassy had established direct relations with Syria since 1975, with representation on the basis of an ambassador in Beirut.

The embassy there was quietly closed because of the Syrian civil war, although the government was keeping the situation in Beirut under review with the intention of reopening the embassy in Damascus, Mr. Peacock said. The Australian Embassy in Damascus was closed in 1975 after the Syrian government was keeping the situation in Beirut under review with the intention of reopening the embassy in Damascus, Mr. Peacock said. The Australian Embassy in Damascus was closed in 1975 after the Syrian government was keeping the situation in Beirut under review with the intention of reopening the embassy in Damascus, Mr. Peacock said.

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Kidnappers of Oriol soften their demands

MADRID, Jan. 21 (AFP). — The kidnappers of Spain's Council of State President Antonio Maria de Oriol have softened their demands, he wrote to his family in a letter published today by the newspaper El Pais. He said the leftist group "GRAPO" which seized him on Dec. 11, indicated in a message to the interior minister two days ago that it would release him if the government merely promised in public to amnesty political prisoners. Until now, the GRAPO has said that a complete amnesty must take effect for Mr. de Oriol to be released. The letter published today stated that the softened position was "in line with" a series of recent liberalisation measures by the government. He specified the government's negotiations with opposition parties, statements by the interior minister about a possible amnesty, permission for the Basque flag to be flown in Basque provinces, abolition of the Court of Public Order, and a general atmosphere of reconciliation. Progress has now stalled, the letter concluded: "We cannot move ahead thanks to silent decisions, only through a public reply by the government."

Mondale's unprecedented tour shows Carter's preference for closer ties with Europe, Japan

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21, (R) — U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale sets out at the weekend on a "show the flag" tour of Western Europe and Japan in an unprecedented move for any new administration in the United States. Senior aides said the 10-day trip through six key nations, starting on Sunday, will signal the continuity of American foreign policy and stress the Jimmy Carter administration's concern over lagging world economic recovery. The timing of the Mondale tour, beginning less than 72 hours after President Carter's inauguration, demonstrates the priority that the new man in the White House places on links with Western Europe and Japan. In his inaugural address yesterday Mr. Carter indicated strong moral reasons for close ties with the industrial democracies. Discussing America's commitment to preserving its freedoms, he said: "Our moral sense dictates a clearcut preference for those societies which share with us an abiding respect for individual human rights." Vice President Mondale will stop first in Brussels for talks with NATO, Common Market, Belgian and Dutch leaders. Then he will spend a full day in West Germany, pay a brief visit to West Berlin and meet Italian, British and French leaders before flying off to Japan. Another key reason for the trip will be to maintain the momentum for an economic summit conference, now expected next April or May. The economic prospects of America's allies in 1977 are much grimmer than those of the United States. Inflation in Europe varies from country to country but in many places is about twice the American rate of 4.8 per cent. Industrial production is expected to fall there, while unemployment and trade deficits are expected to rise. President Carter has announced a two-year, \$30-billion tax and jobs programme to stimulate the U.S. economy -- and it has been given a generally good reception abroad. But for America's overseas trade partners, the last three months between the general election and the inauguration have been a trying period. One Common Market diplomat here put it this way: "Public opinion in our countries has been asking why we have had to wait while the American lame duck government was unable to take any initiative." Mr. Mondale, who has spent 12 years in the U.S. Senate, is highly regarded in European chancelleries after personal visits to the continent. Aides said his main intention will be to listen to foreign leaders -- and not to enter into any formal agreements. At each stop he expects to begin with a private discussion before bringing in other ministers and staff. His schedule indicates that it will be an arduous working tour, with no frills. Mr. Mondale's flights from Europe to Tokyo and from Tokyo to Washington, for example, will be "over the people" with stops in Anchorage, Alaska, and Iceland. During yesterday's inauguration ceremony, outgoing President Ford was overheard telling Mr. Mondale that he did not envy him the trip. "Can you sleep on a plane?" Mr. Ford asked. "I'm going to find out," Mr. Mondale replied. At later inauguration parties, Mr. Mondale said President Carter was receiving a flood of mail congratulating him on the decision to send the vice president abroad during the first week. "One man wrote: 'Dear Jimmy, if I had known that the first thing you would do would be to send Mondale out of the country, I would have voted for you,' the vice president joked. In announcing the trip, Mr. Carter said it was evidence of his aim to build up the vice presidency. Mr. Mondale will meet Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans for breakfast, then see NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns and the North Atlantic Council at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Monday morning. He will meet the Common Market Commission President, Britain's Roy Jenkins, and see Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoep before flying to West Germany. Mr. Mondale is scheduled to spend Tuesday in Bonn with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and other West German leaders. On Wednesday he will pay a brief visit to West Berlin, then fly to Rome to meet President Giovanni Leone and Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. He leaves the next day for London and a meeting with Prime Minister James Callaghan. On Friday he flies to Paris for talks with Secretary General Jonkheer van Lennep of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The next day he meets French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Mr. Mondale flies to Tokyo on Jan. 29, arriving the following evening. His schedule there includes a meeting with Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and he returns to Washington on Feb. 1.

Joint commission checks effectiveness of truce negotiated with Filipino rebels

MANILA, Jan. 21, (R) — Members of the joint Philippines government-Moslem rebel ceasefire commission were fanning out to various parts of the southern Philippines today to ensure the firmness of the truce which took formal effect yesterday in the four-year-old rebellion. The official Philippines News Agency said the commission, comprising 26 from the Philippines government side and 26 from the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) were to go into the hinterland of Mindanao Island to give information on the situation to what it described as "rebel holdouts". The truce, agreed on in talks between the two sides in Tripoli, Libya, last month to allow further talks on a final settlement next month, was to be fully implemented by yesterday. According to an announcement last night in Zamboanga city by the joint panel, it was already in effect. Documents on the ceasefire were signed yesterday in Zamboanga city, 808 kms, north of Manila, by Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon, southern commander, and the chief MNLF representative, Dr. Tham Manjoorsa, back after five years exile. They were watched by an Islamic Conference delegation from Libya, Senegal, Saudi Arabia and Somalia, who are overseeing the arrangements. The government radio in the south also broadcast a tape-recorded message from MNLF leader Nur Misuari, in exile in Libya, for an observance of the ceasefire. Earlier, the Islamic Conference Assistant Secretary General for Cultural Affairs, Mr. Hasem Zuheri, who accompanied the MNLF delegates and conference group to the Philippines, told Reuters that his impression after a three-day tour of the troubled area was that the ceasefire was in effect and the chances of a settlement were good. Under the terms of the Tripoli agreement, full details of which have not been published here, further talks under the good offices of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and the Islamic Conference will be held in Tripoli to reach a final settlement.

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Britain's oil production estimates cheer prophets of doom

Last month the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided to increase its prices by up to 15 per cent. Such an increase will deal Britain's battered economy yet another heavy blow. But there is good news from its own North Sea oilfields. Estimates of future production and reserves are going up almost monthly. Now, it is reported, the country should be fully self-sufficient some time in 1978 and by 1990 it could be producing 500 million tonnes a year.

LONDON (Gemini) — Britain's economy has been so battered in the last 25 years that very few Britons now believe anything but bad news. This is why so many of them -- and so much of the British press -- remain sceptical about North Sea oil.

Today this pessimism seems increasingly unjustified.

Estimates of production and reserves in the North Sea oilfields are now being increased almost monthly.

The current estimate is that Britain will be 50 per cent self-sufficient in oil some time next year, and possibly fully self-sufficient by some time late in 1978. On these estimates by 1980 Britain will probably be the world's fifth biggest oil producer -- after the big four: USSR, U.S., Saudi Arabia and Iran.

One respected oil industry ex-

pert has forecast that Britain will be producing up to 500 million tonnes of oil a year by 1990. At present levels of production -- and most of the major present oil producing countries will find it very difficult to expand production in the years ahead -- this could make Britain the biggest oil producing country in the world.

The problem is one of perception: this bonanza has crept up stealthily.

North Sea gas was discovered in the late 1950s. The first oil was found much further north than the gas, mostly north of Scotland -- in the mid 1960s. By the late 1960s experts were saying that Britain could possibly be self-sufficient in oil by the 1980s.

By the early 1970s self-sufficiency in the 1980s was certain. Last year, when Britain actually produced the first commercial barrel of North Sea oil, the forecast was for self-sufficiency by 1980; now it is 1978.

Not only has the speed of North Sea oil production been consistently underestimated; the same is true of the size of reserves. Originally some of the prospecting oil companies, urging caution, said the North Sea reserves would last no more than ten years. Then the story was that production would begin to tail off in the 1980s, then the 1990s. Now production is pushed well into the next century.

This long history of underestimating the North Sea oil reserves -- now well established as one of the major oilfields of the world -- is put down to three factors. Firstly, offshore oilfields are very difficult, and expensive, to prove. Actual production rate and recoverable reserves are rarely able to be gauged accurately until commercial production actually begins. Every major offshore oil field in the world has proved to be vastly more productive than early estimates.

Cynics charge the oil companies with being deviously cautious or worse. The companies admit to caution. But they say they cannot be anything but cautious: their bankers are interested only in positive proven finds. They will not lend money on the strength of optimistic guesses.

The best known cynic, and a scourge of the oil companies, is Prof. Peter Odell, of the world's leading independent oil industry specialists. He is an Englishman who lectures on oil all over the world and he has written several books on the subject. At present he is Director of the Economic Geography Institute in the Netherlands School of Economics at Erasmus University.

The reason why he is of such interest in the context of North Sea oil is that it is his "exaggerated" forecasts of North Sea potential that are now proving to be the most accurate.

Prof. Odell says there is no mystery as to why the oil companies are so conservative in their estimates. The biggest problem for the companies, says Odell, is to minimise tax payments.

The big debate about oil in 1974 and 1975 was the level at which the British Labour government would fix the Petrol Revenue Tax (PRT). As this debate gathered strength, the oil companies made it very clear that the 50 per cent PRT proposed by the government would immediately stop work on all but the two or three biggest oilfields.

Odell said the oil companies five years ago, now imports nearly half her domestic requirements. were bluffing; reserves were far greater than admitted.

In the event they were, and they are. The government went ahead with its PRT proposal; the oil companies went on finding more and more oil; the exploitation of deposits has accelerated.

By the end of this year production will have reached about 20 million tonnes; by the end of next year it will be between 40 and 50 million tonnes; or more than half total British consumption.

Of the 13 proven oilfields in the British sector of the North Sea, seven will be on stream by the end of this year. Of these 13 fields, eight are what have been called "marginal," with peak production rates of under five million tonnes a year, although experience suggests that some of these small fields may prove very much more substantial than so far estimated.

Of the other five fields, there are the big three: Forties (estimated peak production 25 million tonnes), Brent (22 million tonnes) and Ninian (20 million tonnes). Forties is producing now; indeed Forties will provide more than half Britain's oil production next year. Brent is about to come on stream; Ninian later next year.

Of the two medium-sized fields, Piper (11 million tonnes) comes on stream in December, and Thistle (eight million tonnes) early next year.

At the present time Britain consumes about 80 million tonnes of oil a year. This is expected to rise to about 100 million tonnes by 1980.

Present official estimates suggest that peak production from the North Sea will reach about 110 million tonnes by about 1980.

Prof. Odell, and other independent observers, say these estimates are laughably conservative. He now says Britain's North Sea sector will reach peak production of between 300 and 500 million tonnes by 1990. A year or two ago such forecasts would have been scorned. Today they are taken at least half seriously because Prof. Odell has so often been right in the past.

If he is right, Britain will probably be in a better energy supply situation than any of the major industrialised nations of the world. By contrast, for example, the USA, which was self-sufficient in oil

Britain's balance of payments by a factor of about £5 billion. This compares with an estimated balance of payments deficit for 1977 of just under £2 billion.

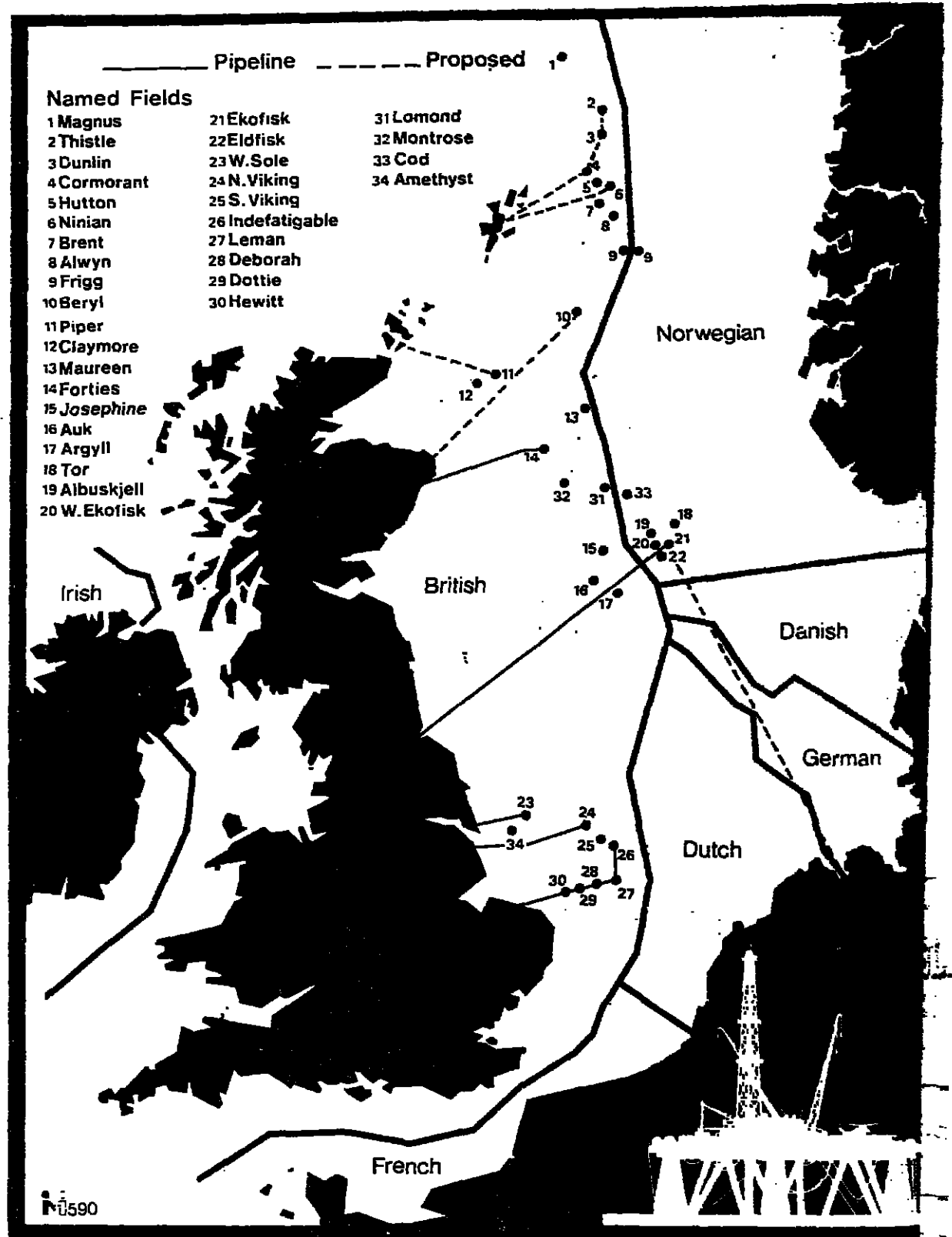
British government revenues will also benefit directly, as a result of the PRT and other duties and taxes, to the tune of about £3 billion by 1978. This compares with a present annual British government debt of about £10 billion.

The worst thing that could happen now, as far as Britain is concerned, would be a substantial drop in the price of oil in the world market. There has, in fact, ago.

been a weakening of world prices in the last year.

Since the major OPEC prices by in 1973-74, many countries have reduced their oil purchases. Many oil shipping companies and shipbuilders have faced a major recession. Some of oil exporters have been quick cutting prices.

Today this recession seems to be receding, and now the OPEC countries have again decided a rise. Today the "risk" of a weakening of world oil prices is much less than a year or ago.



IT'S ALL GO -- Construction men are hoisted into position above the steel deck of the British Petroleum oil production platform FD ("Highland Two") in the Forties Field, 177 kms. off Aberdeen, where work is now nearing completion. Drilling from the platform -- fourth and last of the massive oil rigs installed at the Forties Field -- starts this month on the first of 27 wells.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)	
7:00	Morning melodies
7:30	News
7:40	News reports
8:00	Sign off
10:00	Listeners choice
11:00	My kind of music
11:30	Catch the words
11:45	Arab scientists
12:00	Pop session
13:00	News summary
13:05	Pop session
14:00	News

EMERGENCIES

Doctors :	Nuzha	" 30237
Amman :	Khifan	" 44198
Yussef Smour Tel. 63254		
Issa Abu Haidar " 37123		
Irbid :	Jerusalem	
Taha Abdul Karim Ababneh	Zarqa :	
Mouanes Beirut	Saadah	
	Abu Jaber	
Zarqa :		
Yahya Tarifi	Taxis :	
Pharmacies :	Neel	Tel. 44433
Amman :	Tariq	" 2302421:10 This Week
Adnan Tel. 39655	Jerusalem	" 39655
Jaafari " 72679	Ahram	" 6391121:30 Press Conference USA

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	
03:00	The Breakfast Show : News.
	to on the hour and 28 min.
06:30	after each hour.
17:00	News
17:15	This Week
17:30	Press Conference USA
18:00	Special English. News/Words and their Stories. Feature : Short Stories. News Summary.
18:30	Country Music USA
19:00	News and Topical Reports
19:15	Letters from Listeners
19:30	New York, New York
20:00	Special English. News/Words and their Stories
20:15	Music USA (Jazz)
21:00	News

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals :	
7:55	Cairo (EA)
8:20	Dubai (Alitalia)
8:20	Muscat, Doha
8:25	Kuwait
8:45	Karachi, Dubai
8:50	Tehran
8:50	Aqaba
11:15	Beirut
11:35	Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)
16:30	Aleppo, Damascus
17:30	Cairo
19:40	Beirut (MEA)
19:50	London (BA)
Departures :	
6:00	Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)
8:00	Beirut
8:00	Aqaba
8:00	Tabuk, Badana, Jauif, Jeddah (SDI)
8:45	Beirut (MEA)
8:45	Cairo (EA)
10:45	Bucharest (Tarom)
11:00	Cairo
11:00	Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
11:15	Damascus, Aleppo
11:30	Frankfurt, Copenhagen
12:30	London
12:30	Rome, Paris
13:30	Jeddah (SDI)
18:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai
20:30	Rawalpindi (BA)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	" 24391-4
Fire headquarters	" 22090
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37009
Goethe Institute	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

BBC RADIO

GMT	
05:00	News; Press Review
05:15	Letterbox
05:30	Music from Scotland
05:45	The World Today
06:00	News; Press Review
06:30	Bob Holness Requests
07:00	News
07:15	From the Weeklies
07:30	Music from Scotland
07:45	Letter from London
07:55	A Musical Dictionary
08:00	News; Reflections
08:15	Europa
08:30	Dority Pepe
09:00	News; Press Review
09:15	The World Today
09:30	Financial News
09:45	Come to the Operetta
10:15	Scotland '77
10:30	Matthew on Music
11:00	News
11:15	Europa
11:30	Lord Peter Wimsey: Clouds of Witness
12:00	Radio Newsreel
12:15	Take It or Leave It
12:45	Sports Round-up
13:00	News; Commentary
13:15	Business and Industry
13:30	An Anthology of British Choirs
14:00	News
14:09	Book Choice
14:30	Terry Wogan's LP Showcase
15:00	Radio Newsreel
15:15	Saturday Special
16:00	News; Commentary
16:15	Saturday Special
17:00	News Summary
17:02	Saturday Special
17:45	Sports Round-up
18:00	News
18:15	Radio Newsreel
18:30	Theatre of the Air
19:45	Intermezzo
20:00	News; Commentary
20:15	Business and Industry
20:30	My Music
21:00	A History of Foot Command Performers
21:15	Books and Writers
21:40	News
22:00	Music Now
22:09	The Week in Wal
22:40	Sports Round-up
22:45	World News; Commentary

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6 :	
6:00	Quran
8:05	Children's programme
6:30	English by television
7:00	Time to remember
8:00	News in Arabic
Channel 3 :	
7:30	Family programme
8:30	Arabic series
Channel 6 :	
9:20	Reportage
7:30	News in Hebrew
7:45	Varieties
8:30	Get some in
9:10	Saturday variety
10:00	News in English
10:15	Movie of the week

مركز الصحافة

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

DEAR MR. GOREN

You say that a rebid by
er in a lower-ranking
and now led out the other day for
ave again led in this sequence:
y the "North
of world 2 +

set me right.—Robin
on, Cherry Hill, N.J.

♦ Q8
♦ J83
♦ Q93
♦ AKJ75
♦ J109 ♦ K8742
♦ Q108 ♦ 79
♦ KJ6 ♦ 1087432
♦ Q1062 ♦ 4
♦ A53
♦ AK7542
♦ A
♦ 523

West leads the jack of
spades.—Jack Klein, St.
Paul, Minn.

after a one-level response,
id by opener at the one-
or at the two-level in a suit
in rank than his original
indeed not forcing. Here,
ver, those conditions do not
th has shown a relatively
hand with spade support.
h has a minimum opening
there is no reason for him to
gain. He cannot be seeking
prove the contract—he is
only raising the level of the
on, but he is taking out of a
where there is a proven fit
is where he cannot know
it exists.
gically, there can be only
planation for South's bid.
as a hand which, despite
single raise from partner,
prospects for game. South
bidding a suit in which he
help. Here, the new suit
conditionally forcing for one
North has no help in clubs,
un- either return to three
s or show values in dia-
is or hearts by bidding a
suit. That will enable
to judge whether re-
der's hand is suitable for
North has useful values in
s, he should proceed to four
es even if he is minimum
is initial response. He has
cards partner is interested
id the hands should fit well.

A.—Double dummy it is easy,
but the line should be found at
the table. Cover the jack of
spades with the queen just in
case West led from the king.
When East plays the king, win
the ace and cash the ace-king
of trumps.

When you learn that you have
a trump loser, you must get two
spade discards on dummy's
clubs. To accomplish this, you
must find West with exactly
four clubs. If he has any fewer,
he will ruff a club and cash a
spade before you can get two
discards.)

Lead the nine of clubs and go
up with the king, in case East
has a singleton queen or ten.
When no honor appears, return
to your hand with the ace of
diamonds and lead the eight of
clubs. If West does not cover,
you run the eight and a repeat
finesse brings in the club suit
and your slam. If West covers,
win in dummy, return to your
hand with a diamond ruff and
lead your last club, taking the
marked finesse.

Playing this way, West can
ruff the fifth club, but by then
you will have gotten rid of both
those pesky spades in your
hand. You will lose only a trump
trick.

How would you play six
ts on this hand?

UNBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles,
letter to each square, to form
ordinary words.

KNITH
UPER
ERVTY
ORRAC



THEY HOLD THEIR
HEADS UP.

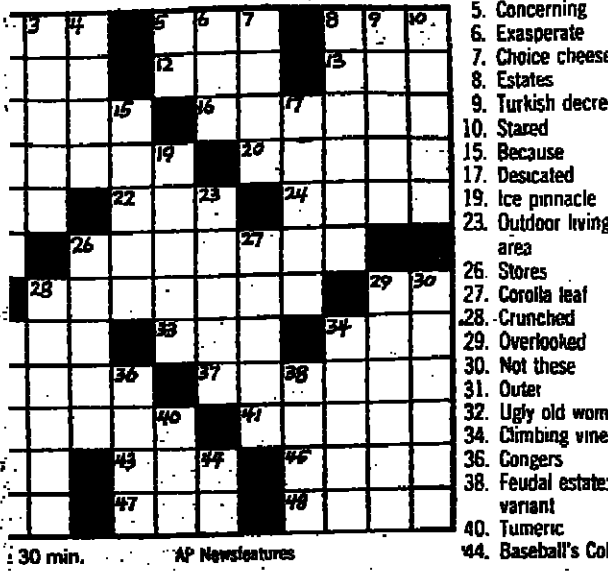
Now arrange the circled letters to
form the surprise answer, as sug-
gested by the above cartoon.

At the surprise answer here: ○○○○○○

Answers tomorrow
Jumbles: COACH HOBBY BOUNCE GYRATE
Answer: A vegetable product often piped to its
ultimate destination—TOBACCO

ROSSWORD PUZZLE

24. Angered
25. Alop
26. Embarrassing
situations
28. Swindled
29. Show Me State:
abbr.
31. Reverberation
33. Townsman: abbr.
34. Illuminated
35. Crinkled fabric
37. Like a dunce
39. Large dog
41. Charier
42. One, in Scotland
43. Permit
45. Unique person
46. Went ahead
47. Speak
48. Fathers



SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1. Love apple
2. Root
3. Fortification
4. Son of Shem
5. Concerning
6. Exasperate
7. Cheese
8. Turkish decree
9. Staged
10. Because
11. Desecrated
12. Ice pinnacle
13. Outdoor living
area
14. Stores
15. Corolla leaf
16. Crunched
17. Overlooked
18. Not these
19. Outer
20. Ugly old woman
21. Climbing vine
22. Congers
23. Feudal estate:
variant
24. Tumeric
25. Baseball's Cobb

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO

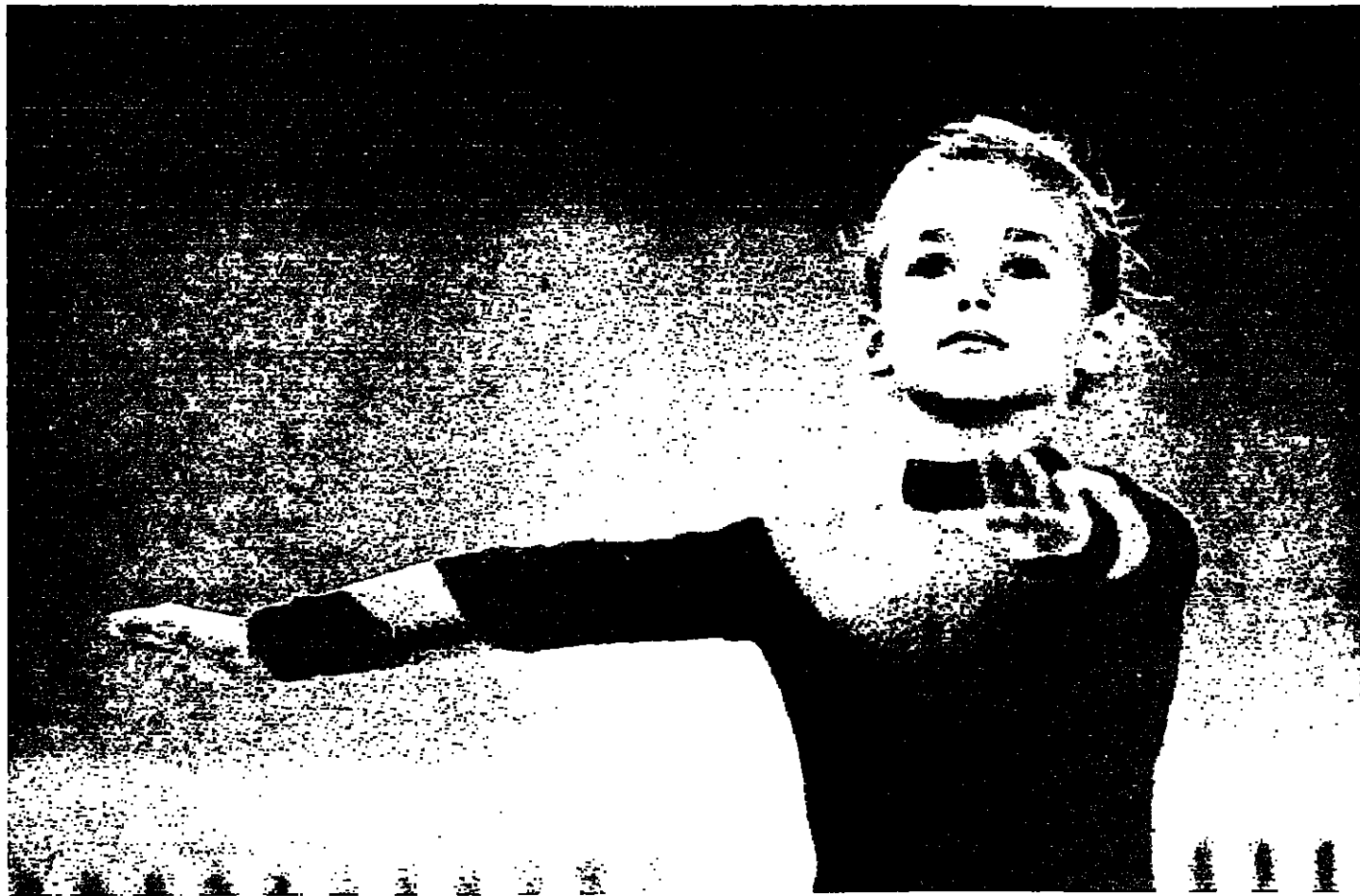


FIGURE-SKATING -- The Soviet sport where you learn young -- could make this six-year-old a champion the world over.



GRAFFITI

WE SPEND
MORE ON
LIQUOR THAN
EDUCATION BUT
YOU LEARN
MORE AT
COCKTAIL
PARTIES

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

MOVIE OF THE WEEK:
SAYONARA

Cast: Marlon Brando, Miyoshi Umeki,
James Garner, Ricardo Montalban

The poignant love story of an American jet ace and
the beautiful star performer of a Japanese troupe.

SATURDAY VARIETY:
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN LATIN
AMERICAN DANCING

A one-hour colour variety special in which all types
of Latin American dances are shown.

MAKE THE JORDAN TIMES WORK FOR YOU

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by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.
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at the Jordan Times—Al Ra'i building, on University
Road.

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Open daily for Executive
Luncheon 1-3 p.m. Special
International Buffet on Sun-
days. Dinner with live music
from 7 p.m. to midnight. For
reservation please call 41361
ext. 5.

QUICK MEAL

Restaurants for broasted
chicken and light snacks.
Take home, lunch or dinner.
Jabal Amman, First Circle.
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deh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646.
Jabal Al Hussein, near Jeru-
salem Cinema. Tel. 21781.
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CHINESE RESTAURANT

First Chinese restaurant in
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First Circle, Jabal Amman, near
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to midnight.
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by phone.

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First Circle, Jabal Amman.
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Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Restaurant, coffee-shop, sn-
ack bar and patisserie.
Oriental and European spe-
cialties.

311 443 STEAKHOUSE

Fires Wings Hotel, Jabal
Al Luweibdeh, Tel. 22103/4.
Choice of THREE set me-
nus daily for lunch, and a
la carte.
Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12
p.m. Specialty: steaks.

For advertising in above columns contact
"Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38969.
Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 22, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to make realistic
plans for the future. Your only caution is not to become
involved in things you don't understand. You have
considerable energy, so use to advantage.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Tap your subconscious for
the inspiration you need to solve problematical affairs.
Contact outsiders for data you need.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) There is a fine
opportunity to bring good things into your life now.
Contact friends whose backing you can count on.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Establish goodwill with
higher-ups who can be of help to you. Sidestep an ally who
is not in a good mood today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Talk over
with experts just how you can advance more quickly in
your chosen profession. Be more expressive.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Instead of going out for
pleasure, study and concentrate on a new project that is
important to your future welfare.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find out what your true
position is with an associate whose ideas keep changing
with the tide. Benefits can be yours if you are alert.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Keep rooted to tasks at
hand, but don't scatter your forces in wrong directions.
Show increased devotion to the one you love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Stick to the inexpensive
and you can have a good time without worrying later
about the cost. Be content.

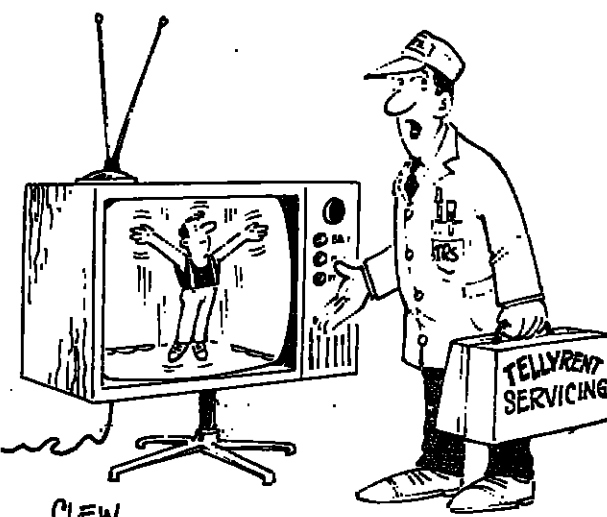
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Contact allies and
work out a satisfactory agreement with them. Be sure to
use extreme caution in motion today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Go to the right
sources for the information you need. Make plans to
operate more efficiently in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your monetary
structure more intelligently and steer clear of pleasures
now which could prove costly and time-wasting.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take time to engage in
favorite hobby with congenials. The social can yield fine
benefits but be careful of the cost.

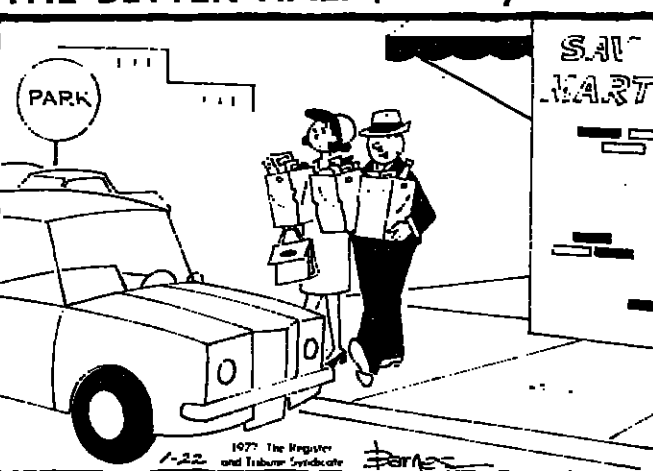
LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND
Lewis

"There's nothing wrong with your set, madam -
you've been watching the national trampoline
championships."

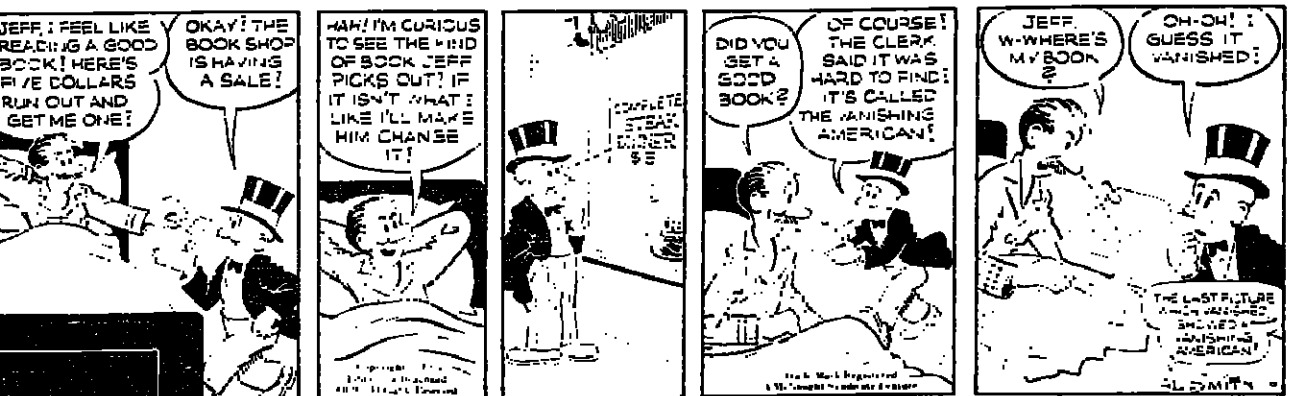
THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



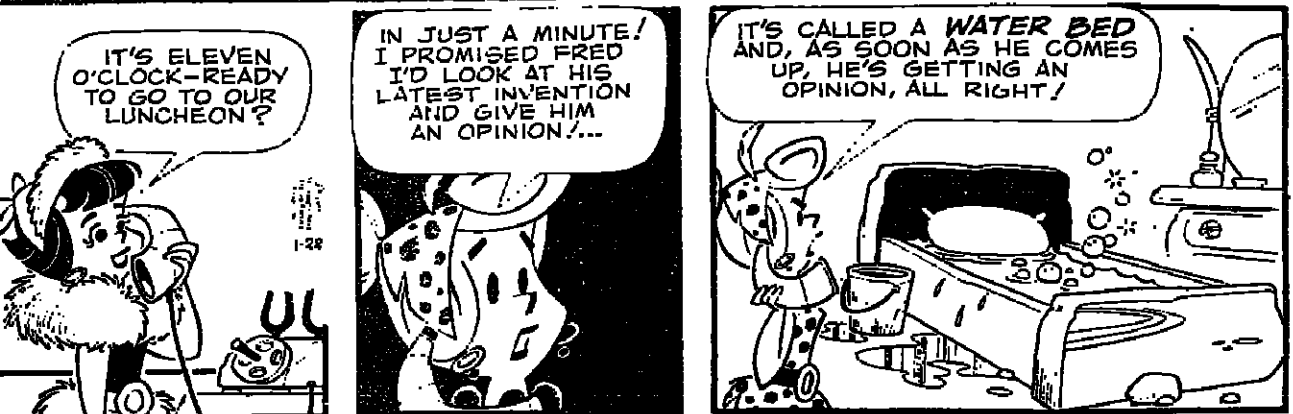
PEANUTS



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



We support mini Palestine state

Iraqi vice president says in Tokyo

TOKYO, Jan. 21 (AFP). — Iraq will support a plan to establish a mini Palestinian state if it contributes to the cause of the whole Palestinian people, visiting Iraqi Vice President Taha Maarouf said today.

However, Mr. Maarouf told the press, his country will oppose the idea if there is a possibility of the mini state coming under Israeli control.

"Establishing of such a small nation is not the only solution of the Palestinian problem. Efforts must be made to fully recover Palestinian rights first," he said.

The vice president admitted that there are some differences in opinion among Arab nations on ways to solve the Palestinian issue, however, he said the gap will be narrowed in the near future. He stressed that Arab countries including Iraq are strengthening unity.

Asked to comment on the new U.S. government's policy towards Iraq and other Arab nations, Mr. Maarouf said "we don't expect much from the administration of Mr. Jimmy Carter although we cannot make a correct judgment now because the new American government was inaugurated just one day ago."

The Iraqi vice president thanked the Japanese government for permitting the opening of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Tokyo office, and at the same time he urged Japan to have more interest in the Middle East situation and to cooperate in solving the Palestinian problem.

Concerning the possibility of a split in OPEC following recent decision on a two tier oil pricing system by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Mr. Maarouf said "OPEC is a strong organisation. We respect and abide by resolutions to be adopted at OPEC meetings."

He said Iraq, which has sufficient oil resources, will further promote cooperation with developed and developing countries, and added that his country will increase oil production.

He disclosed that Iraq will invite the seventh summit meeting of non-aligned nations to Baghdad in 1982.

Turning to relations between Japan and Iraq, Mr. Maarouf hoped that Japan will increase technological and economic assistance to his country.

He added that the two countries should promote not only economic ties but also cultural and artistic exchanges. Japanese technology is needed for Iraqi development projects, he said. The vice president said Iraq is open for Japanese enterprises.

Mr. Maarouf, who came to Japan Wednesday for a six-day official visit, held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda on bilateral issues yesterday. During the talks, he asked Mr. Fukuda to visit Iraq.

Vance makes March Moscow visit for fresh SALT talks

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (AFP). — The U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance intends to visit Moscow towards the end of March to start a fresh round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) informed sources said here today.

The first SALT agreement signed in 1972 expires on Oct. 3 and President Jimmy Carter has said that the conclusion of a second agreement remains one of the most important diplomatic objectives for American policy this year.

In his inaugural speech yesterday President Carter said: "We will move this year a step towards our ultimate goal -- the elimination of all nuclear weapons from this earth."

The signing of a new SALT agreement would entail the visit to Washington of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, sources said.

The new U.S. administration is already planning a visit by the Soviet communist party secretary general in September or October.

In Moscow, Mr. Vance will have talks with Mr. Brezhnev not only on a new SALT agreement but also probably on the situation in the Middle East where the secretary of state will make his first foreign trip at the end of next month, sources added.

OAU begins preparations for Afro-Arab summit

LUSAKA, Jan. 21 (AFP). — The Organisation of African Unity's Committee of 12 on Afro-Arab cooperation began a meeting here today to finalise African proposals for the forthcoming Afro-Arab summit in Cairo in March.

The committee will discuss recent oil price increases by Arab producers and the possibility of preferential tariffs for African consumers, sources said.

Arab investment in Africa was another topic likely to be discussed, the sources added.

The meeting, behind closed doors, is chaired by a Tanzanian delegate, Paul Ruperiah. Other African states represented are Sierra Leone, Mali, Egypt, Burundi, Algeria, Botswana, Cameroun, Ghana, Senegal, Sudan and Zaire.

The economies of black states have been hit hard by recent oil price increases and there is a general feeling among OAU member states that a two-tier price structure should be introduced.

This, they say, would enable developing countries to buy oil at lower prices than those paid by developed countries. Other African states support the idea of Arab oil subsidies to compensate poor countries for increases in oil prices.

Israeli officials: Ties with France still rusty due to Abu Dawud affair

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (AFP). — Differences still remain between Israel and France in the wake of the release by a French court of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Abu Dawud, Israeli officials said here today.

No decision has been made on the return to France of Israeli Ambassador Mordechai Gazit who was recalled for consultations at the height of the affair nine days ago, the officials added.

Israeli authorities have made no decision over the visits of French ministers to Israel which will not be able take place while Mr. Gazit is in Israel, the sources went on.

Observers pointed out that French Industry Minister Michel Louis de Guiringaud are scheduled to visit Israel next month, and Culture Minister Françoise Giroud in March or April.

An authoritative French source said in Berlin yesterday that Mr. de Guiringaud planned to visit Israel during a tour of Middle East countries.

Israeli officials said that the present uncertain situation was because not all of the "answers" given by French authorities over the Abu Dawud affair were "satisfactory."

Legal explanations given so far "do not hold water," they said, adding that contacts between the two countries were continuing "at a slow pace."

Cypriot assembly passes measures to penalise officials guilty of 1974 anti-Makarios coup

NICOSIA, Jan. 21, (Agencies) — The Cypriot House of Representatives has approved a government bill aimed at purging public services and security forces of members who took part in the coup, against President Makarios two-and-a-half years ago, which sparked the Turkish invasion of the island.

The bill was passed unanimously at the end of a sitting late last night.

It provides for a seven-strong committee of lawyers to investigate complaints of pro-coup activities against civil servants, police, national guardsmen, teachers and other government or semi-government employees.

Penalties will range from a fine equal to one year's pay to demotion, compulsory retirement or dismissal.

Speaker of the House Spyros Kyprianou said the measure was not vindictive but necessary to deal with those who had turned against the state and its head.

There will be no conviction without trial and no trial without a complaint, he said.

In a separate development, Turkish Premier Suleiman Demirel today denied Turks committed atrocities in Cyprus after the 1974 invasion, as alleged in a recent Council of Europe Human Rights' Commission report.

"Turks are civilised people. They did not commit atrocities in Cyprus," the premier asserted.

Turks have been massacred for years in Cyprus, "and no one said anything," said the premier.

Mr. Demirel said that the military operation in Cyprus also caused suffering to the Turks. "Fifty thousand of them were obliged to emigrate from south to north. Before the move north 25,000 others had been forced to pass the winter in tents," he said.

Absurdity's loophole

By Bassam Bishut

Arise, O price of rice!

How highly discourteous of the Egyptian populace to choose this of all times to stage their violent demonstrations. Their leader, President Anwar Sadat, was resting from the burden of his great duties in the warm sun of Aswan when these uncivil citizens let go of their primitive urges to go crazy in the streets and, thus, forced the man to rush back to cold Cairo to try and put the lid back on the angry volcano.

And what, pray, are these people so angry about? The price of rice of all things. If they were demonstrating for rice that would have been understandable and easily managed. Some latter-day Marie Antoinette could have told them to eat cotton instead -- cotton being a plentiful commodity in Egypt. But these people are not demonstrating for the privilege of eating rice, they are demonstrating over the price of rice. Imagine people demonstrating about prices; about money. How unashamedly materialistic this age has become.

But what could you say about a mob like that? Such rioters do not deserve the infinite wisdom that lies behind the policies adopted on their behalf by those who govern them. Can you imagine a mob taking time off to fathom the depths of genius that went into the decision of raising the price of rice?

First, the momentous, earth-shaking, resolution to open a door had to be taken. This is called the "open-doors" policy whereby since the Russians refuse to give you the aid you want, reject your plea to have spare parts for your weapons and dismiss your supplication to forget about the money you owe them, you open the door and throw them out.

You don't immediately shut back the door but keep it open for the others, represented by "Dear Henry" -- may the Lord rest his shuttles.

Our "dear friend Henry" has a bright idea of a suggestion to make; so bright that only a comparably shining wisdom of a brain is able to grasp it. He says: "Look friends. You want some money for your economy, balance your economy and you get some money."

Then comes the next momentous, earth-shaking, resolution. Since the economy cannot be balanced -- but let's get done with that, this is not an economic column after all -- you negotiate for a loan. Since nobody is throwing money in the streets for you you've got to offer something in return.

You read some economic -- not again -- books, you scratch your head and you think

hard at night when everything is still and quiet and it is not yet January -- for the Egyptian populace have a habit of staging noisy demonstrations in January of almost every year -- and hey, presto, you've got it!

This time you don't only open doors but windows also. You invite people to come in through doors and through windows, to partake in a magical little ceremony called "investment". That is, people supply you with vests which you put in banks to keep the safes there warm. These vests are especially warm because they are made of an unusual green, paper-like, material which the mob calls, in slang, money.

Here we are full circle. That was what those rioters were demonstrating about. But not yet. The infinite wisdom of the police we spoke about is infinite. There is more than that to it, to say the least.

Now when people put vests in your bank they want returns -- and certainly not your old vests, threadbare and worn out -- but hereditary products of the same they gave you. If, according to Sir Charles Darwin, the organic world works by natural selection, does the organic world of green vests, if you put some in, you get some out on the condition that you let it play freely -- well naturally -- so that it will naturally select its mate and naturally reproduce its image.

All well and good. But "my dear friend" a natural and free play of vests is conditioned upon the lack of obstacles in the way of the wind. Any housewife knows that: To get your vests dried up in the air you don't hang your washing in enclosed areas. So you have to dis-enclose.

You think again and hit it again on the nail -- but you don't remove the nail otherwise the whole washing line would collapse and your new vests will not play freely in the wind anymore. What you do is just that: Remove the obstacles. You see where the vests want to go and you let them go right there. In other words, what money will buy -- say rice -- let money buy it. Don't get yourself to buy it.

Therefore, the wisdom of the matter is there. Do not buy rice or pay for rice but let the existing money buy the rice. So the price of rice goes up and you get the money you wanted and spend it again on buying rice. Because the mob will not understand your wisdom and they'll go out into the streets and you have to listen to them so you buy the rice for them. How uncivilised and discourteous; how infinitely hideous.

This time it is really full circle.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

ANKARA, Jan. 21 (AFP). — Greece and Turkey will resume talks over dividing the continental shelf under the Aegean Sea in London on Jan. 31, a diplomatic source disclosed here today. Observers forecast that a joint Greek-Turkish committee would be formed in London "to study the practice of states and international regulations" that might serve in drawing a dividing line as announced on Nov. 11, after a previous round of talks in Bern, Switzerland.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 21 (AFP). — Support for direct elections to the European Parliament has increased and totalled 69 per cent of citizens of EEC member states at the end of 1976, a Common Market opinion poll showed here today. Three years earlier, support for direct elections stood at 54 per cent, the "Euro-Barometre" published by the EEC Commission showed.

PEKING, Jan. 21 (R). — China's Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, today turned over its front page to readers' letters and complaints, and pledged to live up to its dull image. Nine letters were published -- including one criticising the newspaper's standards of accuracy and another pleading for shorter, simpler articles to replace the old fare of tortuous ideological treatises. An editor's note said the massive readership was fed up with the way the People's Daily had developed under the purged "gang of four" radicals.

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 21 (AFP). — A confrontation between the South African government and the Roman Catholic Church here seems inevitable following the church's decision to open its schools to children of all races. Administration officials in the Transvaal and Cape Provinces have said they will close all Catholic schools which accept African children.

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (R). — Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban today praised outgoing U.S. Secretary of States Henry Kissinger for originality and breaking conventions in foreign affairs, especially in the cold war.

LISBON, Jan. 21 (AFP). — A warning issued today by the Portuguese Socialist Party that Trotskyite Communists were trying to infiltrate it appeared to be a prelude to expelling 11 members of the "labour wing" of the party, observers said. The eleven have already been suspended for allegedly violating party discipline.

NEW DELHI, Jan. 21 (AFP). — The Indian Socialist Party today demanded the release of all political prisoners in the country before the parliamentary elections in March. The demand was made in a resolution adopted at the National Committee of the party here. The Indian government Thursday announced it would release all political prisoners, except those who had been involved in violence.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The sharp cut in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate had been largely expected on the stock exchange Friday and the gains among gilt-edged issues made prior to the announcement were consolidated, and added to, in firm trading. Rises of one point were seen in the long end of the list. The success of the huge government "tap" stock issue also underpinned sentiment.

Elsewhere industrial leaders appeared to be taking a breather before the weekend, although Glaxo, Bats, Fisons and Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) reversed early losses before falling back again. The Financial Times industrial shares index was down 2.2 at 384.7.

Banks turned firmer after initial easiness, although Hong Kong Shanghai remained dull.

Profit-taking hit oil, with British Petroleum, Shell and Burmah moving down. Golds were slightly easier in a generally quiet mining section where tins, diamonds, platinum and the Australians were all marginally lower.

Tate and Lyle, a dull counter after Thursday's results, picked up. Electricals were generally firmer and properties also advanced.

Black uproar against apartheid will not intimidate South Africa, says president

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 21, (Agencies) — Dr. Nicolaas Diederichs, President of South Africa, said today his government would not be intimidated by black "rioting" against apartheid.

Opening the first parliamentary session since rioting broke out in black townships seven months ago, Dr. Diederichs said the government had no intention of "yielding to pressures of this kind."

The president also launched a scathing attack on the United Nations, saying that debates in the world body last year were once again characterised by "virulent and unbridled attacks upon South Africa."

"The true facts were even more cynically disregarded than in the past and the principles of truth sacrificed even further to the dictates of political expediency," he said.

Among the anti-South African resolutions approved by the U.N. last year was one supporting armed struggle by SWAPO (the South West African Peoples Organisation). It was the first time the U.N. had supported armed struggle as a means of resolving a dispute.

Dr. Diederichs' speech gave no hint of changes in the apartheid system of "separate racial development", the cause of the demonstrations in which some 500 black people have died -- only two were white.

After the opening, parliament adjourned until Monday, when a week-long debate starts. The leader of the main opposition party, Sir de Villiers Graaf, has said he will attack government policies on internal affairs, the economy and external affairs.

The new session is likely to see a concerted opposition attack on the apartheid policies of the ruling National Party.

Political observers believe it likely that the session will lead to a significant improvement in the lot of blacks, coloured (mixed race) and Indians, although there will be a few "cosmetic changes" in race laws aimed at reducing tension.

Meanwhile, another political tangle, the 14th since March year, has died in a South African prison, it was announced in Johannesburg today.

Security police said the 40-year-old man, Mr. Elmon Malele, 50, a member of the banned African National Congress (ANC) died yesterday "after a brain operation following a stroke."

Seventeen detainees have died in the last ten months, 14 of them held on political grounds.

Police officials have never closed the precise reasons for Malele's arrest, and they refused to give any details on the case.

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